



## Wyoming Department of Education

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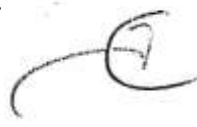
### MEMORANDUM NO. 2010-220

**TO:** District Superintendents  
Middle School and High School Principals

**FROM:** Tom Collins, Standards Team Supervisor  
Standards and Assessment Division

**DATE:** December 3, 2010

**SUBJECT:** Civility Matters! The Decline of Legislative Civility—But Not in Wyoming



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### INFORMATION TO SHARE: PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO TEACHERS OF SOCIAL STUDIES IN YOUR SCHOOLS

The Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) is committed to providing information on Wyoming events that have a positive impact on students and communities in Wyoming.

The Wyoming Humanities Council is hosting, next Friday night, December 10, 2010, at 5:30 p.m. at the Historic Plains Hotel in Cheyenne, a discussion on civility featuring Dr. Alan Rosenthal, of Rutgers University (see attached message for more info). Dr. Rosenthal is one of the premiere legislative scholars in the nation and he will be speaking to new Wyoming Legislators in the morning on December 10, 2010, and has agreed to give a presentation as part of the Wyoming Humanities Council's Civility Matters!-Initiative at the Plains Hotel. He will be talking about the decline of civility in politics, but will be highlighting the Wyoming Legislature as an exception to that trend, noting Wyoming is a model for how to engage in public policy discussions in a civil manner.

For more information about the event or the Wyoming Humanities Council, call 307-721-9243 or visit [www.uwyo.edu/humanities](http://www.uwyo.edu/humanities).

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Attachment



**Join Us for *Civility Matters! The Decline of Legislative Civility—But Not in Wyoming***

**Friday, December 10**

**5:30-7 p.m.**

**Historic Plains Hotel, 1600 Central Avenue, Cheyenne**

Join us for refreshments and conversation about Wyoming's place in the national debate over declining legislative civility. Leading the dialogue will be Rutgers University legislative scholar Alan Rosenthal speaking on "The Decline of Legislative Civility—But Not in Wyoming." Rosenthal, a professor of public policy at Rutgers University, researches and teaches about state legislatures and state politics. The author of numerous books on state legislatures, he has worked with legislatures in most of the states and with the three national legislative organizations. His most recent book is *Engines of Democracy: Politics and Policymaking in State Legislatures*. In 2006 he was the recipient of an award for lifetime achievement from the National Conference of State Legislatures and the State Legislative Leaders Foundation. He is currently chairman of the New Jersey Legislature's Joint Legislative Committee on Ethical Standards.

*Civility Matters!* is a multi-year initiative of the Wyoming Humanities Council which offers promotion and online and face-to-face programs on the topic of civility. Residents of the Cowboy State will have broad opportunities to consider the meaning of civility, both in the context of the nation's democratic commitments to freedom of expression and in the context of an increasingly global world. Funding is provided by the Wyoming State Legislature through the Wyoming Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources, the University of Wyoming Outreach School, and the National Endowment for the Humanities. *Civility Matters!* complements the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) 50-state American Civility Tour, conducted by NEH Chairman Jim Leach in 2010-2011. The Wyoming Humanities Council is

a nonprofit organization affiliated with NEH. For more information about the event or the Wyoming Humanities Council, call 307-721-9243 or visit [www.uwyo.edu/humanities](http://www.uwyo.edu/humanities).